

Committee Members,

Education Standards and Curriculum should be made at the local level. Each and every district, school, and child are individual and it's needs are different. Our elected representatives and board of education members, administrators, teachers and parents were not engaged in the planning drafting, or implementation of the Common Core. Having a principled debate would have required having the opportunity to have any kind of debate. We were all denied the opportunity and the standards were slipped into place deceptively. This is hardly in harmony with the principles of representative government. It is in fact Education without Representation. In accepting the enactment of the common core, we all relinquish our voices. I will be silenced, my children's teachers will be silenced, my board of education will be silenced and even you will be silenced.

We will be giving power to those who believe they are instant experts. They know it all of society. It strikes me as ironic that we are fighting to legislate something that wasn't legislated to begin with.

We need to put the approval of standards and curriculum where it belongs, in the hands of the communities that are the true stakeholders of the success of the students. Isn't the most important goal of all education, at every level, to support and strengthen the temperament to continue to learn throughout life? Success is an innate trait, children strive to be successful. Fostering this desire for success and leading our students down a path of accomplishment benefits us all, our future is dependent on their future.

Whatever potentially positive role standards might play in truly collaborative conversations about what schools should teach and children should learn has repeatedly been undermined by bad process, suspect political agendas, and commercial interests.

The entire process of this initiative from inception to execution has been an orgy of incestuous greed.

Is it best to put our children's future in the hands of those who have so much to gain monetarily? I think not!

Michelle Duffany